

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for supporting an epicardium, said method comprising:
introducing an at least one generally elongate linear flexible element into a pericardial space through an access point so that the element ~~assume a configuration~~ advances along a helical path which encircles the heart as the element is introduced.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1 ~~[[or 2]]~~, wherein the flexible element is introduced through an access point below ~~[[an]]~~ a xiphoid process through a pericardium wall into the pericardial space.
4. (Original) A method as in claim 3, further comprising the steps of puncturing skin beneath the xiphoid process with a needle and passing the needle and a guidewire through the pericardium into the pericardial space.
5. (Original) A method as in claim 4 further comprising the steps of withdrawing the needle and introducing an introducer over the guidewire through the pericardium into the pericardial space.
6. (Original) A method as in claim 5 further comprising the step passing a delivery catheter through the introducer over the guidewire through the pericardium into the pericardial space to a site adjacent an epicardium.

7. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 6 ~~further comprising the subsequent step of introducing the passive support~~ wherein the elongate linear flexible element is introduced through the delivery catheter to the epicardium.

8. (Currently amended) A method as in claim ~~[[3]]~~ 1, wherein the at least one elongate linear flexible member element comprises a ribbon-like member.

9. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member has a width-thickness ratio greater than about two.

10. (Original) A method as in claim 9, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member has a width-thickness ratio greater than about seven.

11. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member has a length and varies in flexibility along that length.

12. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member has a length and varies in width along that length.

13. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member has a length and varies in thickness along that length.

14. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member is at least partially inflatable.

15. (Original) A method as in claim 14, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member is incrementally inflatable.

16. (Original) A method as in claim 8, comprising introducing multiple ribbon-like members.

17. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member has a lumen extending from the proximal end at least partially to the distal end.

18. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member includes at least one orifice situated to open to other surfaces of the generally helical member when the support is helically configured.

19. (Original) A method as in claim 8, wherein the at least one ribbon-like member further comprising a source of glue or adhesive flowable through the at least one orifice, the glue or adhesive suitable for causing adherence only between portions of the generally helical member.

20. (Original) A method as in claim 19, wherein the glue or adhesive comprises a modified cyanoacrylate.